

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 14, 19, 25 and 26 have been amended, and Claim 27 added, herewith. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. Applicants also wish to acknowledge and thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview on July 11, 2003. Although no agreement was reached, the teachings of the cited Penzias and Rhee patents and how they may relate to the claimed invention were discussed.

I. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claims 7, 19 and 26, stating "the requested message" lacked proper antecedent basis. Applicants have amended such claims herewith to correct these informalities.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

A. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-6, 13-18 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Penzias (US 5,475,738). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the database supports multiple types of uniform storage formats, and that the particular one to be used when storing a message is determined by the designated account for the message. The received message is converted to this uniform storage format, which is different from the format used by the communication device from which the message was received. This is in contrast to the teachings of the cited reference, which treats all users/accounts the same, and only supports a single storage format (Audix). There is no support for multiple types of different uniform storage formats, or support for storing the message in a different format than the one received as specified for a particular account. Claim 1 advantageously allows for storing all messages for a given account in the same uniform storage format, and yet allows each account to select the particular storage format to be used, thus allowing storage format customization based on the particular needs or desires of a given account. Thus, it is shown that amended Claim 1 (and dependent claims thereof) is not anticipated by the cited reference.

Claim 1 is further shown to not be obvious in view of the cited reference. Penzias teaches a system that mimics the handshakes/protocol used to communicate with an Audix system such that the Audix system can be used without modification. Thus, there would be no motivation to make changes in the Audix system per the claimed invention, as the desire is to not modify the Audix system.

Further with respect to Claim 2, Applicants show that the cited reference does not teach a plurality of different allowable communication devices where the format used to store messages is different from all such devices. For example, Penzias stores normal audio messages in the Audix system, which is the same format as generated by telephone stations 32. This feature of Claim 2 advantageously allows for storing data in a universal format that is independent of the format used for any of the supported communication devices.

With respect to Claim 13 (and dependent claims thereof), Applicants traverse for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 1.

Further with respect to Claim 14, Applicants traverse for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 2.

Further with respect to Claim 17, Applicants traverse for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 5.

With respect to Claim 25, Applicants traverse for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 1.

B. The Examiner rejected Claims 7-12, 19-24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rhee (US 5,524,137). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 7 (and dependent claims thereof), such claim has been amended to highlight that there are a plurality of different uniform storage formats, and each designated account has a uniform storage format associated with it for storing *all* of its messages in that uniform storage format. These claimed features advantageously provide for using a particular universal storage format that suits the needs of a given designated account, and then converting a retrieved message to a format that is compatible with the communication device. In contrast, the cited reference teaches that data is stored in a plurality of different formats for a given user, such as fax, image,

video, text (Rhee Figure 3, elements 317 and 347). This can also be seen in Rhee's Table 420 in Figure 4, where the Message Type field indicates that for each user, there can be a plurality of different data formats for messages associated with a given user. Thus, it is shown that amended Claim 7 (and dependent claims thereof) is not anticipated by the cited reference. Applicants further show there is no motivation to modify Rhee in accordance with the claimed invention due to Rhee's desire to provide a plurality of different types of storage formats for a given user (Col. 3, lines 55-57) in its multi-media compatible system.

Applicants traverse the rejection of Claim 19 (and dependent claims thereof) and 26 for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 7.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been overcome.

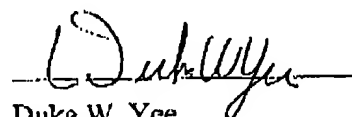
III. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: 7.11.03

Respectfully submitted,



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